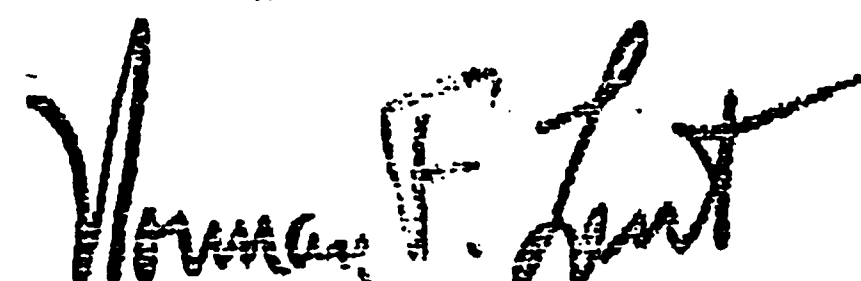


should be reclassified as missing in action. What's more, the Air Force, the Pentagon, the Department of Defense and the State Department must intensify efforts to force the governments of Viet Nam and Laos to return the servicemen - living and dead - who have been unaccounted for since the end of the war in Southeast Asia.

I hasten to point out to you that the Defense Intelligence Agency has received numerous credible reports of sightings of live Americans in Indochina. The massive refugee exodus from Indochina, beginning in 1978, caused a tremendous increase in the number of reported sightings as refugees were interrogated by American officials.

In view of these facts, it seems to me that no American should rest while any of our fellow citizens are enslaved in a foreign nation. I know you share that sentiment and I trust that you will look into this matter and report back to me as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,


NORMAN F. LENT
Member of Congress

NFL:gt:hn



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

In reply
refer to: I-05188/81
18 FEB 1981

Mrs. Jean MacDonald

DATA

Dear Mrs. MacDonald:

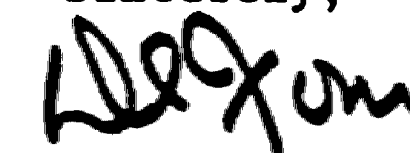
Thank you for your mailgram of January 25, to President Reagan concerning your son and the nearly 2,500 other Americans who remain unaccounted for in Indochina.

The U.S. Government is continuing its vigorous efforts to account for all missing Americans from the Vietnam War. Unfortunately, progress has been painfully slow due to a significant lack of cooperation from the Indochina governments. Because a significant amount of the information pertaining to the MIAs is in Vietnamese hands and thus far we have had little cooperation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the U.S. Government has been unable to determine the fate of those missing in action or to verify the validity of reported sightings of live Americans in Indochina. There is an increasing number of these reports which indicate that Americans may be held against their will in Indochina but the U.S. Government has thus far been unable to substantiate this information and priority effort will continue to be assigned to investigating these reports. All reports, whether firsthand or hearsay, are thoroughly investigated to determine if there is any truth to them.

Although only marginally productive, we would hope that the October 1-4, 1980 visit by Joint Casualty Resolution Center officials to Hanoi will mark the beginning of further meetings between U.S. and Vietnamese representatives. Our charge d'affaires in Laos is vigorously seeking cooperation from the Laotians to account for our missing in that country. The current politico-military situation in Kampuchea makes accounting for our missing there extremely difficult. President Reagan remains committed to resolving this humanitarian matter properly and is kept informed of major developments by his senior advisors.

We believe the Indochina governments can and ought to do more and we are determined to continue pressing them for every assistance in obtaining the fullest possible accounting and return of all recoverable remains.

Sincerely,



Donald S. Jones
Rear Admiral, USN
Director, East Asia
& Pacific Region

LTC FER

J. MACDONALD



DATA
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OFF SECY OF DEFENSE

FEB -2 1981

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITEHOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20050

TRAUMA OF VIETNAM IS NOT BEHIND US. WE HAVE ABANDONED OVER 2500
SERVICEMEN TO CRIMINAL TERROR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WILL WE COME TO THE
AID OF THESE CAPTIVE AMERICANS? THE ANSWER IS IN YOUR HANDS MR.
PRESIDENT.

JEAN MACDONALD, AN MIA MOTHER

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

In reply
refer to: I-05560/81

10 APR 1981

Ms. Judy J. Mahaffey

DATA

Dear Ms. Mahaffey,

Thank you for your letter of January 26 to President Reagan concerning your brother, Spec.6 Frankie B. Johnson, and the nearly 2,500 other Americans who remain unaccounted for in Indochina.

The U.S. Government is continuing its vigorous efforts to account for all missing Americans from the Vietnam War. Unfortunately, progress has been painfully slow due to intransigence on the part of the Indochina governments. Because a significant amount of the information pertaining to the MIAs is in Vietnamese hands and thus far we have had little cooperation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the U.S. Government has been unable to determine the fate of those missing in action or to verify the validity of reported sightings of live Americans in Indochina. There is an increasing number of these reports which indicate that Americans may be held against their will in Indochina but the U.S. Government has thus far been unable to substantiate this information and priority effort will continue to be assigned to investigating these reports. All reports, whether firsthand or hearsay, are thoroughly investigated to determine if there is any truth to them.

The recent report that Americans were seen working as members of a road gang in northern Vietnam was made by a Norwegian workman, Stein Gudding, who was employed by a Swedish construction firm building a paper mill in northern Vietnam. He was interviewed on December 6, 1980 by U.S. representatives in Bangkok, Thailand after his telephonic interview with radio station KIRO in Seattle on December 3, 1980 and provided hearsay information concerning his knowledge of Americans being held against their will in Vietnam. During the initial interview and again on January 15 of this year, Mr. Gudding provided the name of the individual whom he claimed was the source of his information on the sighting of Americans northwest of Hanoi.

On January 16, 1981, a Department of Defense representative located and interviewed the individual whom Mr. Gudding claimed was his source of information. This individual stated that he had no personal knowledge of Americans in Vietnam and that the only information he possessed on Americans remaining in Vietnam was obtained through rumors.

Comeback